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Reflection: 2

Literature review plays a very imperative role in action or any other types of research. Literature review involves reading, analyzing, evaluating and summarizing any published literature. A research is not complete if there is no literature review to inform its readers on the topic, as the aim of any research is to inform readers. Based on the fact that research it to inform readers two important issues come into play here credibility and validity. The literature review serves as a tool or agent by which researchers build credibility and validity of their research. This credibility is built by citing views, opinions or findings express by previous researchers related to the topic being research including theorist. It also contains views; opinions expressed by the researcher so the citations acts as a strengthening agent to the views and opinions expressed by the researcher. A research without a literature review cannot be valid as it contains only the views of the researcher and it shows that no in-depth research was done on the topic.

When doing the literature review choosing the source for citing is important as this can also affect the credibility and validity of the research. There are three basic types of journal popular, trade and scholarly. A popular journal is not evaluated or review by experts in the field, a trade journal may be evaluated but is not peer-reviewed while a scholarly is usually evaluated by experts in the field and peer-reviewed. Action research is scholarly or academic in nature so it is best to use scholarly journals as this helps to build credibility, trade and popular journals are not used in action research.

Theorists influence current instructional strategies in the classroom e.g. vygotsky scaffolding strategy and, Ausubel meaningful learning theory to name a few. Researchers should choose theorist and their strategies that would support their views or opinions in the literature review as action research is all about improving ones practice in the classroom.